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ARRB , FBI Compromise On Informant Symbols

The Assassinations Records Review Board (ARRB) has decided to compromise with the FBI in a dispute over informant symbol numbers. The agreement ends a controversy that could have forced President Clinton to decide between the ARRB and the FBI on whether complete symbol numbers must be released.

In late July 1995 the ARRB voted to release 15 FBI documents. Much of the information which the Board wanted released purportedly had already been released by the FBI. Nevertheless, the FBI appealed all of the Board's determinations.

Under the President John F. Kennedy Assassination Records Collection Act of 1992, the President of the United States has 30 days to decide whether or not to uphold the Board's determinations. Fearing that the White House was about to uphold the FBI, the Coalition on Political Assassinations ("COPA") urged its members and allies to contact the White House.

The day before the White House was to reach its decision, on August 30, 1995, *USA Today* ran a story highlighting the potential importance of informant identities in the JFK case. Based on research by Professor John Newman, it concerned a former FBI agent, Carver Gayton. In 1976,



The Government continues to hand over thousands of pages of JFK Records to the AARC.

Gayton signed an affidavit for the Church Committee attesting that while he was assigned to the FBI's Kansas City field office James Hosty stated to him and other members of the Interstate Stolen Motor Vehicle Squad that Os-

The agreement ends a controversy that could have forced President Clinton to decide between the FBI and the ARRB.

wald had been a PSI ("Potential Security Informant"). Hosty denied the allegation.

The White House then announced that Clinton was remanding the issue to the Review Board and the FBI for further negotiations so that they could

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The President's Column

by Jim Lesar

While the work of the Assassinations Records Review Board (ARRB) has justifiably drawn much praise, its decision to compromise on the release of complete informant symbol numbers is not well grounded in fact or law.

The Board did not say which provision of the JFK Act authorizes the withholding of the numerical portions of the FBI's symbol numbers. Presumably, the Board relied upon § 6(2) which permits postponement of information if it is established by "clear and convincing evidence public disclosure would reveal the name or identity of a living person who provided confidential information to the United States and would pose a substantial risk of harm to that person." *Id.* (emphasis added).

Since the purpose of the code symbol number is to conceal the identity of a source, it can hardly be argued that disclosure of the symbol number "would" reveal the name or identity of the source. Then what argument did the FBI make to the White House and the Review Board which caused the Board to decide that the numerical portions of such codes should be withheld? The FBI probably argued that disclosure of the source numbers in the aggregate would permit knowledgeable analysts to discover their identities.

This is certainly conceivable, but even

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President's Column (continued from page one)

so, does it authorize withholding under the JFK Act? Even if it is conceivable that disclosure of source codes in their entirety might make it possible for some sources to be identified, can it be established by "clear and convincing evidence" that this "would" result from such disclosures? This seems doubtful.

Even if the FBI met this requirement, the Act imposes still further hurdles to withholding. The source (1) must be still living, (2) must have provided "confidential information" to the agency, and (3) disclosure of the source's identity must "pose a substantial risk of harm to that person."

Given the passage of time, it is extremely unlikely that all FBI sources are still living. Under the statute, there is no basis for withholding even the name or identity of a deceased source, much less the numerical portion of the symbol number for a deceased source.

Second, even if the source is still living, it seems extremely unlikely, except in a few isolated instances, that the FBI could establish by "clear and convincing evidence" that disclosure "would pose a substantial risk of harm" to that source.

Equally troubling, is the Board's statement that it does not regard the numerical portion of these numbers as providing significant information. This is at odds with any argument that releasing this part of the symbol will reveal the identities of the sources. The identities of sources are vitally important. The credibility—or lack thereof—of a source can be extremely significant information. Ultimately, it is impossible to write accurate history without some means of evaluating the credibility of sources.

The ARRB should reconsider its finding on the postponement of the numerical portions of code symbol numbers.

"Nixon" Screenwriter Counters Attacks on Film's Portrayal of RN and anti-Castro Plots

Author and Screenwriter Stephen J. Rivele has investigated and written extensively on topics related to the assassination of President Kennedy. With Christopher Wilkinson and Oliver Stone, he wrote the screenplay to Oliver Stone's "Nixon." A book containing research done for the movie, edited by Eric Hamburg and also entitled "Nixon" is now available.

by Stephen J. Rivele

Oliver Stone's new film about Richard Nixon has provoked controversy, both on the late president's account, and that of the filmmaker. Before the movie was released, as happened with "J.F.K.," the film had already been attacked in the press. William Safire, one of Nixon's speech writers, called it a hatchet job, without the benefit of having either seen or read it, John Ehrlichman has denounced it, and scholars are being marshalled by the magazines to declare that, bad as Nixon was, whatever Stone says about him must be worse.

Newsweek, however, has thrown a curve ball with its cover story on the film, and its seven-page panegyric. The only dissonant note was sounded in a box by Evan Thomas, who took us to task on Track 2. One of several background mysteries we included in the plot, our references to Track 2 trace the CIA's assassination efforts from 1959 down to Nixon's presidency, forming an important part of the president's well-documented paranoia. In the script, Nixon's familiar, Bob Haldeman, tells Ehrlichman that the president's repeated references to the "Bay of Pigs thing" and its power to move the CIA to block the

FBI's investigation of Watergate, were, in fact, a code for the John Kennedy assassination.

This was no flight of dramatic fancy. We got this idea from Haldeman's own book, *The Ends of Power*, wherein he states this very conclusion. His view, as voiced in the film, is that the attempts by the CIA to murder Castro "in some crazy way got turned around on Kennedy". Whether this was true or not, as Daniel Schorr says in an essay he wrote for the book of the film, Nixon evidently believed it, and the fear that his role in helping to set the plots in motion might be exposed haunted him throughout his presidency.

There is plenty of evidence to back up this idea, which Thomas ignores but Haldeman doubtless knew, from Nixon's frantic, and fruitless, efforts to force Richard Helms to turn over to him the CIA's files on the assassination plots, to his obsession with Howard Hunt, Watergate burglar and CIA pointman on the Bay of Pigs, to the Senate Intelligence Committee's findings that the first Castro murder schemes were approved by the Eisenhower-Nixon White House when Nixon was the action officer for the Bay of Pigs operation.

But, as we have been at pains to explain to journalists, (many of whom apparently are unaware that their government ever plotted to murder anyone) *Nixon* was never intended to be a conspiracy film. It is, instead, a portrait of a man and the times that shaped him, and the times he helped to shape. It is an insight into a mind that reflected ours, and a spirit which, while darker than most, was the glass in which we saw ourselves for fifty years of our nation's life. As Anthony Hopkins' Nixon says at the close of the film, gazing up at a portrait of JFK: "When they looked at you they saw what they wanted to be. When they look at me, they see what they are."

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reach a "compromise."

On October 19th, the Review Board announced that it had again voted to release these FBI documents, but that in light of additional information provided by the FBI, it decided it would not release the numerical portion of the FBI symbol numbers. In support of its compromise decision, the Review Board said the numerical portion of the symbols would not disclose any significant information.

CUBANS DENY THAT "SOLO" SPOKE TO CASTRO

The first issue of the AARC Quarterly reported on the release early this year of CD 1359, the long-withheld June 17, 1964, letter from FBI Director J. Edgar Hoover to Warren Commission General Counsel J. Lee Rankin which relayed comments that Cuban Prime Minister Fidel Castro had purportedly made concerning the assassination of President Kennedy. Now, two former Cuban officials, General Fabian Escalante and Arturo Rodriguez, have denied that the high-ranking American Communist Party officials who the FBI code-named "Solo" ever spoke to Castro.

In response to questions put to the Cubans at the recent conference in Nassau, they denied that "Solo," the FBI code-name for Jack and Morris Childs, ever spoke with Castro. In response to a direct question as to whether "Solo" had visited Cuba, Arturo Rodriguez responded that he had researched Cuban records and had found no evidence of such a visit. When asked whether any member of the American Communist Party had visited Cuba at that time, Rodriguez said that he had not researched that question.

The Cubans have also denied that Cuba conducted tests to see if the shooting attributed to Oswald could be replicated, another allegation made by CD 1359.

Because CD 1359 quotes Castro as having said that Oswald made a threat against Kennedy when he visited Cuba's embassy in Mexico City, it has been cited as evidence that Oswald had an interest in shooting Kennedy long before the assassination. Several significant authors have cited this document and the statements attributed to Castro, including ex-FBI Director Clarence Kelly, journalist Daniel Schorr, and former HSCA Chief Counsel G. Robert Blakey.

What the Cubans say raises a question as to whether J. Edgar Hoover forwarded bogus information to the Warren Commission. This is a significant issue, and one which the Review Board needs to promptly investigate. It is also an issue which is readily resolvable. The Review Board should declare that the passport and visa records pertaining to Morris and Jack Childs are JFK assassination records and make them available to the public.

BROUHAHA OVER GARRISON PROBE PAPERS

New Orleans District Attorney Harry Connick's testimony before the Assassination Records Review Board kicked up the kind of fuss the Crescent City is famous for.

Connick, who has been the New Orleans DA since Garrison left, said some of Garrison's files had recently been turned over to the New Orleans public library, and that others were "missing." He stated that the files had been "rifled" before he took over, and that "they took from those files things that would be of great interest to the American public and to the world. . . ."

Review Board member Kermit Hall

asked Connick whether a public servant who removed materials relating to the Garrison investigation would be violating Louisiana law. Connick rejoined: "Our criminal code calls that theft." His testimony held out little hope to the Review Board that they could obtain any significant records pertaining to the Garrison investigation.

But as they are wont to do in New Orleans, matters soon became more complicated. Connick followed up his testimony to the Review Board with interviews with a local TV reporter, Richard Angelico. He told Angelico that all records having to do with the JFK probe were significant and should have been preserved. Angelico aired his TV interview with Connick on July 11th, but also produced an affidavit from a former Connick assistant, Gary Raymond, who said that in the early 1970s Connick had told him to burn the Garrison grand jury files.

Connick reacted angrily. He called Raymond a thief who had stolen the grand jury transcripts, and accused Angelico of having received stolen property. He also subpoenaed both men before the grand jury, claiming that he was investigating the theft of Garrison's grand jury papers.

In the meantime, the original transcripts of the grand jury testimony of some 40 witnesses were turned over to the Review Board. Connick then issued a subpoena to the Review Board, claiming it was in possession of "stolen property."

Apprised of these events, AARC President Jim Lesar made a Freedom of Information Act request to the Review Board 1) to obtain a copy of these important historical records for the the AARC's files, and 2) to prevent their return to Connick without copies being made available

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to the public. A Review Board official has given assurances that the papers will not be removed from the Review Board's possession without 72-hour notice to the AARC. This will allow the AARC sufficient time to challenge any such action in Court if necessary.

Lesar also filed a request under Louisiana law for both the grand jury records and all other records relating to Garrison's investigation. About 20 minutes after faxing this request to Connick, Connick telephoned. During their conversation, Connick denied that he had threatened to destroy any Garrison records and said he would not do so. When asked that he put this in writing, Connick said he would. To date, no response to the AARC's request has been received from Connick, nor has Connick written the promised letter stating that he would not destroy the records.

As this article went to press, Gary Raymond was sentenced to jail for turning over the records to the Review Board. According to the *Washington Post*, the conviction was for improperly disclosing grand jury material. Raymond was briefly jailed, pending his appeal.

Connick's original subpoena is said to have been defective, and he has not reserved it, although a Review Board source said he has continued to ask the return of the grand jury transcripts.

REPORT ON THE NASSAU CONFERENCE

Former Cuban officials told participants in the recent Nassau conference that they believe that Cuban exile Eladio Del Valle was among those involved in the assassination of President Kennedy. The Cuban officials stressed that they were not speaking for the Cuban Government and that their views were only tentative, but they firmly advanced the thesis that the assassination of President Kennedy was part of a larger plot to use that event as an excuse to invade Cuba and topple the Castro regime.

The conference in Nassau, held December 7-8, 1995, continued the exchange of information between Cuban and American researchers that began at the conference in Rio de Janeiro in August. This time, however, the presence of a fluent Spanish translator and a different format--participants sitting around a conference table rather than giving formal speeches--provided more congenial to discussion.

The Cubans present included General Fabian Escalante, who until recently was head of Cuban counterintelligence, and Arturo Rodriguez, who had also worked in the same unit. Also present on the Cuban side were Carlos Lechuga, the Cuban ambassador to the United Nations at the time Kennedy was murdered. Lechuga spoke about his meetings with William Attwood, an American delegate to the UN who wrote in his book, *Reds and Blacks*, that he was involved with Lechuga in the fall of 1963 in secret meetings aimed at establishing a dialogue leading to rapprochement with Cuba, negotiations that ended not long after Kennedy's murder.

Among the American researchers present were Prof. John Newman, Prof. Peter Dale Scott, Dick Russell, Anthony Summers, Jim Lesar, Peter Kornbluh, John Judge, and Gordon Winslow. Mary and Ray LaFontaine were present for the second day of the conference. Jeremy Gunn, from the Assassination Records Review Board, was also present. Wayne Smith, who was principally responsible for organizing the conference, acted as moderator. The American participants paid their own way to the conference. Funding to bring the Cubans to the conference was supplied by Gulfstream Airlines, Cubita Coffee Company, Abbe Rockerfeller and Lee Halperin.

Claudia Furiate's book *ZR Rifle: The Rifle That Killed Kennedy* had previously set forth many of the details provided by Escalante and Rodriguez in Nassau, but this time the Cubans provided a more detailed explanation of how they had obtained their information and arrived at their views on the Kennedy assassination.

For example, Furiate had previously written that the Cubans believed that Eladio del Valle was involved in the assassination. This time, however, they revealed that the source of their information is Tony Cuesta, a now-deceased Cuban exile leader who was imprisoned by the Cubans after his boat blew up off their coastline. Escalante said that in early 1978 Cuesta told his Cuban captors that del Valle was involved in Kennedy's assassination.

Among the other statements by the Cubans:

Rolando Cubela (AMLASH), intervened on behalf of Santo Trafficante in 1959 when he was detained in an internment camp.

Cubela was recruited by CIA agent Carlos Tepedino, who was a good friend of his in 1956-1957, and who met with him in

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LITIGATION SEEKS DOCUMENTS ON WINSTON SCOTT

By Mark S. Zaid, Esq.¹

The son of former CIA official Winston Scott has filed suit under the Freedom of Information Act after nearly four years of futile efforts to obtain CIA and Justice records on his father.

Winston Scott was the CIA Station Chief in Mexico City when Lee Harvey Oswald visited the Cuban and Soviet Embassies in October, 1963. These visits remain a topic of much debate, and the story of Winston Scott remains virtually untold. Indeed, few references can be found about this former CIA Station Chief among public sources.

Win Scott was once described as an "almost legendary figure" within the CIA who, with one exception, served the longest tenure in the Agency's history as a Chief of Station.² Scott joined the CIA early in its inception and served as the CIA's first Chief of Station in London (1947-1950), its Inspector General in Washington, D.C. (1950-1956), and, finally, as the Chief of Station in Mexico City (1956-1969). During this period the Mexico City CIA station was one of the most important in the world due to its involvement in CIA "third country operations"; that is, Mexico was used for access to the nationals of other countries, particularly those of Cuba and the Soviet Union.³

During the two years between his retirement and his death, Win Scott discussed the prospects with John Baron, a friend and Senior Editor at Readers Digest, about publishing an autobiographical manuscript. The first draft of the manuscript, written under a pseudonym, was 221 pages and was sent to Barron for his review in December, 1970. It was entitled "It Came To Little" which Scott explained to Barron was a verse he came across in Hagai 1.9 and read something like "Ye expected much, but, lo, it came to little." The concluding theme of the manuscript was, as Scott explained in a letter to Barron, that "with all our work,

the dollars spent and the thousands of hours put into the battle against communism, we who were and those who still are in CIA would have to admit that 'It Came to Little', if we are honest." Scott was preparing to meet with then Director of Central Intelligence Richard Helms to discuss whether he could publish his manuscript when he died on April 26, 1971.

Immediately upon hearing of Scott's death, James Jesus Angleton, the CIA's chief of counterintelligence, flew to Mexico City and proceeded to arrange for confiscation of many of Win Scott's personal files, including the manuscript. Several years later the manuscript caused the CIA a great deal of consternation when its existence was discovered by the Select Committee on Assassinations in 1978. One chapter of the manuscript — finally released to the public in October, 1993 — detailed Oswald's October 1963 visit to Mexico City.

According to internal CIA memorandums, this chapter contained gross inaccuracies. The CIA feared that the memo would fuel what the agency believed was a bias of the HSCA investigators against the CIA. Indeed, based on the contents of the manuscript, the HSCA refused to accept several CIA assertions about events in Mexico City, particularly whether a surveillance photograph of Oswald existed.

In 1986, approximately one-half of the manuscript was finally released to Michael Scott. Additional chapters were released in mid-1995. The new releases provide interesting insight into the life of Winston Scott, but also served to illustrate the frustrations FOIA users experience with the CIA in fighting withholdings. For example, the 1995 release provided nearly two additional lines, originally withheld in 1986, from the manuscript's Forward that referred to Allen Dulles. A quick

review shows the released text merely states that Dulles had been "a principal architect in the creation of CIA for President Harry Truman and the Greatest Director CIA has had." There is no question that this information was clearly publicly known in 1986 and officially acknowledged by the CIA for decades. Certainly, its release would not jeopardize national security, and could not be legitimately withheld under the FOIA. Nevertheless, it was for nearly a decade.

Michael Scott is attempting to discover, for himself and his children, information about a father he barely knew (Michael Scott was only fifteen, and away at boarding school, when his father died). He hopes to develop the public record about the activities of a high level intelligence officer of the United States government who performed crucial work in maintaining the security of the United States during the height of the Cold War. Nearly 100 pages of the 221 page manuscript remain withheld, as are hundreds of additional pages from the files on Win Scott. These remaining pages will likely reveal more of the legendary, but mysterious, figure of Winston MacKinley Scott.

¹The writer is a Washington, D.C. attorney specializing in FOIA cases and represents Winston Scott's son Michael. He is writing a book about the career of Winston Scott and the CIA's Mexico City Station during 1957-1969.

² According to David Atlee Phillips in *Night Watch* 116 (1977). Phillips was a former high-ranking official in the CIA. During the early 1960s he served as the number three person in the CIA's Mexico City Station when Win Scott was the Station Chief.

³*Id.* at 113.

VALENTI/HELMS PLAN FOR CIA TELEVISION SHOW

By Jim Lesar

Just weeks before E. Howard Hunt and his companions broke into the Watergate, top CIA and motion picture officials discussed making a TV series on the CIA based on Hunt's novels. The attempt to parlay Hunt's novels, written under the nom de plume David St. John, into a series proved abortive. Nevertheless, it occasioned numerous CIA meetings and memos before ultimately falling through. At the time, a popular series on the exploits of the FBI was airing on network television.

The initial setting for this episode was appropriately spooky, an intimate gathering, held under unspecified CIA "cover arrangements, of motion picture executives and White House and CIA officials, including CIA Director Richard Helms, White House aide John Ehrlichman, and the President of Paramount Pictures. On the evening of May 8, 1972, these folk gathered at MPAA headquarters at Jack Valenti's invitation to watch a private screening of "the Godfather." The memos do not indicate whether the group of invitees included any CIA assets who might have had a special interest in this film, such as Johnny Rosselli and Sam Giancana.

The first of several documents discussing the TV series idea is a May 8, 1972, Memorandum for Record by Martin J. Lukoskie, Chief of the Corporate Cover Branch of the CIA's Cover and Commercial Staff. Lukoskie's memorandum, written in the third person, dryly notes that he had been called on the morning of May 8th by Martin S. Davis, Senior Vice President of Gulf & Western, a conglomerate which owned Paramount Pictures. Davis advised Lukoskie that there was to be a showing that evening of the movie "Godfather" at MPAA headquarters in Washington, D.C., and that Helms, "a delegation from the White House, including John Ehrlichman," and Charles Bluhdorn,

President of Paramount Pictures, were expected to attend.

Davis' call to Lukoskie was prompted by two concerns. He was worried that Bluhdorn "might mention either the cover arrangement or the CIA series to Mr. Helms." According to Lukoskie, Davis informed him that about a month and a half before there had been a conversation between [deleted] and Mr. Kern of the CIA's Domestic Contact Service ("DCS") in New York at which "the possibility of a TV series on the CIA similar to that on the FBI" had been discussed. Davis thought it would be wise to forewarn Helms of these possible conversational topics "in the event he was not already aware of the cover arrangement and discussions concerning the CIA series."

Why the head of the CIA would be unaware of the cover arrangements is somewhat perplexing, but an answer to that mystery must await further disclosures.

Two days after the special showing of the "Godfather," the CIA's Lukoskie received another call from Davis, who expressed his concern over "a development concerning certain books written by David St. John."

Davis said that several years ago, when he had been President of Paramount Pictures, Harry Real of the New York DCS had brought him a number of David St. John's books to see whether Paramount believed they would be "of interest for conversion to motion pictures." Paramount said they were not suitable.

According to Davis, about a year before, Charles Bluhdorn, Chairman of the Board of Gulf & Western, had talked with a "Mr. Kern of the DCS office in New York" about the possibility of Paramount doing a TV

series on the CIA "similar to that presently on TV concerning the FBI." Although the CIA reached a decision that it would be unwise to attempt such a series, Paramount was to have a right of first refusal if and when the Agency felt such a series was desired.

Davis was upset because on the morning of May 10th, Bluhdorn had put a stack of David St. John's books on his desk with a note saying "maybe I should deal with Helms myself." Davis assumed that Bluhdorn had gotten the books from Jack Valenti, President of the MPAA, at the private screening of the "Godfather." Bluhdorn apparently interpreted this as evidence of the CIA's continued interest in a TV series and thus questioned the accuracy of Davis' information that the CIA did not want such a series.

This information was relayed to Cord Meyer, Deputy Director of Plans the same day by Mr. Isenstead, Chief of Cover and Commercial Staff. Meyer told Isenstead that Davis and Paramount should use their own judgment concerning the David St. John books, adding that there was no pressure from the Agency on the matter.

The next day Davis met with Lukoskie and showed him several of the David St. John books. Davis rendered a blunt opinion on the merits of Hunt's work, referring to the books as "a bunch of crap," and stated that "they can't possibly do the CIA any good."

Davis also told Lukoskie that he had checked with another Gulf & Western vice president, a Mr. Levenson. Levenson said that a couple of weeks before, Valenti had told him that "Helms, a personal friend of David St. John, said he would like to help St. John get the books made into movies or a TV series."

Davis "stated flatly" that he was not interested in the books, but he was

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unhappy because he thought he and Paramount had a commitment from the CIA to give them first opportunity to produce a TV series if the Agency was willing. He was afraid that someone in the CIA was talking with Valenti about the possibility of a TV series, and that he was reneging on its commitment to him. He wanted to know whether or not he had a commitment.

On May 16th, Davis phoned Lukoskie yet again. This time he reported that he had just talked with Valenti, and that Valenti had told him that Helms had talked with him "about six months ago and again two or three weeks ago" about the possibility of a movie or TV series based on the David St. John books "and/or other material provided by the Agency." Valenti also told Davis that he had interviewed David St. John recently at the request of Helms.

On May 19th Lukoskie met with Helms to discuss whether Davis and Paramount had a commitment from the CIA "concerning a TV series." Helms related that "approximately 3 years ago" he had discussed with Valenti "the potential of several books written by David St. John, a former Agency employee." "Helms thought these books gave a favorable impression of the Agency and might be exploitable for the movies."

Helms told Lukoskie that he heard nothing further concerning the matter until several weeks ago when Valenti had expressed an interest in the books. Helms confirmed that Valenti had introduced him to Bluhdorn at the showing of the "Godfather" film, that Bluhdorn had not raised the issue of the David St. John books nor said anything about a possible TV series on the Agency, although he easily could have done so.

Instead, Helms said, they had talked mainly about the wine from grapes

grown in the Napa Valley. He said flatly that he had made no commitment to anyone regarding the possibility of a TV series on the Agency, and as a matter of fact opposed presentation of such a series.

Apprised of Helms' comments, Davis "readily accepted" the statement that he and Paramount had no commitment from the CIA regarding a TV series and said he agreed with Helms that it would be unwise to do such a series. He also added the tart comment that "the incorrect information given by Mr. Valenti to Mr. Bluhdorn was typical of Mr. Valenti."

Valenti, who was in the motorcade in Dallas and who, in his own words, "became a newly minted Special Assistant to the President [Lyndon Johnson] that day in Dallas" and "actually lived in the White House for two months," is well-known to Kennedy assassination researchers.

In testifying before the House Judiciary Committee on the JFK Act, he managed to spend much of his time taking swipes at those who do not believe the Warren Commission version of the assassination: "The JFK Murder Truth Business is becoming a major profit-making enterprise in America, and none have tilled that toxic soil with more efficiency than the bearers of the Conspiracy flag."

Nevertheless, he testified in favor of the JFK Act legislation, saying it was necessary to "uncage the documents" and "[l]et them see the light" to counter "[t]his remorseless avalanche of fiction, quarter-truths, wild surmise, and dissonant looney tunes [which] is akin to being nibbled by ducks."

Ironically, one of the side benefits of the JFK Act has been to shed some light on Jack Valenti.

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Italy in June or July of 1960. According to Escalante, Tepedino is AMWHIP.

Tepedino participated in the recruitment of Cubela in Mexico City in March 1961. The Cubans believe that David Phillips probably was also involved in this recruitment. They base their belief on the description of the other person in Mexico: tall, Anglo-Saxon, about 40, thin, dark spots under his eyes, sociable, fluent in Spanish, well-dressed.

Escalante has no doubt that David Phillips is Maurice Bishop, the person who Antonio Veciana has said was his case agent. Several pieces of information from informants are cited to support this conclusion.

In 1979 an informant told Cuban intelligence that Veciana had admitted to the informant that Maurice Bishop was, in fact, David Phillips.

In 1972 a CIA official interviewed a Cuban agent in Mexico City. President Kennedy's name came up in the conversation. The CIA agent called Kennedy a commie and said that after his death he had visited his grave and urinated on it. The CIA agent used the name Harold Benson and smoked a pipe with initials engraved on it which could have either H.B. or M.B.

Escalante interviewed the Cuban agent and showed him about a dozen photos. He identified "Benson" as David Phillips.

Cubela told the Cubans that David Morales met him in Paris in the fall of 1963.

Escalante and Rodriguez have written a book on their investigation into the Kennedy assassination which is expected to be published next spring.

RECENT DONATIONS

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Thanks to Dr. Wecht, Robert Groden, Jim Lesar and David Wise.

AUTOGRAPHED COPIES OF "OSWALD AND THE CIA" TO BE AUCTIONED

Professor John Newman has donated five autographed copies of his book Oswald and the CIA (New York: St. Martin's Press, 1995) to the AARC. These will be auctioned off to the highest bidder, with the proceeds going to the AARC. Please submit your bids in writing

to the AARC, 918 F Street, N.W., Room 509, Washington, D.C. 20004. Bidding begins at \$30.00 and will remain open until March 31, 1996. Bidders may call AARC at (202) 393-1917 to see where the bidding stands.

BOOK NOTE

by Peter Vea

Just out on the Garrison investigation is Bill Davys' 58 page mimeograph titled *Through the Looking Glass: The Mysterious World of Clay Shaw*, published this September. The author brings together all the more recent finds at the National Archives and from the AARC collection of CIA releases and explains them in light of his recent New Orleans interviews. Of particular interest to researchers is the author's discussion of Project Quenchant, which goes beyond the previously acknowledged Domestic Contact Service involvement.

AARC has an extensive Garrison file including hundreds of memos prepared by the prosecutorial staff for his JFK probe, 3600 pages of the Clay Shaw trial transcript, Garrison's rough drafts for *On the Trail of the Assassins*, including correspondence with Editor Zachary Sklar. We also have numerous HSCA memos and interviews from the 1970's.

AARC LIBRARY UPDATE

AARC Volunteer Coordinator Linda Hansen reports that the inventory of our nearly 2,000 volumes is near completion. We have been downloading Library of Congress card catalog descriptions for all volumes and will soon be able to make available a comprehensive listing of our collection.

Donors of books to our library are reminded that all contributions are tax deductible. To complete previously donated sets, we are particularly seeking Warren Commission, vol. 1 and HSCA, vol. 10.